

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF THE PRELIMINARY DECISION TO ISSUE
A SIGNIFICANT AMENDMENT TO AN AQUIFER PROTECTION PERMIT

Public Notice No. 14-35

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Pursuant to Arizona Administrative Code, Title 18, Chapter 9, Article 1, the Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality intends to issue a significant amendment to an individual Aquifer Protection Permit (APP) to the following applicant(s):

Facility Name: ASARCO Ray Operations

Aquifer Protection Permit No. P-100525

Permittee: ASARCO LLC
P.O. Box 8
Hayden, AZ 85235

Under ADEQ's APP program, a permit is required for any facility with the potential to discharge to groundwater. There are four equally important demonstrations the mine must make to the Department to receive an APP: (1) compliance with Arizona aquifer water quality standards at a point of compliance; and (2) the facility must be designed and operated to achieve the greatest degree of discharge reduction achievable through the application of Best Available Demonstrated Control Technology (BADCT); (3) financial capability; and (4) technical capability.

The ASARCO Ray Operations are located in eastern Pinal County, along State Highway 177, approximately ten miles to the north of Kearny. The site consists of an open-pit mine and associated rock deposition areas (RDAs), a mill that produces concentrate, and a solvent extraction-electrowinning (SX-EW) plant that produces refined copper cathodes from the leaching operations.

This significant amendment application is to permit new facilities, modify permitted facilities, consolidate permitted facilities, remove/close permitted facilities, increase permitted rock deposition area (RDA) elevations, remove alert level wells, revise selected sections of the permit (such as BADCT descriptions and operations and maintenance), modifications to merge the Elder Gulch Permit (P-102278) into the ASARCO Ray Operations Permit (P-100525), and facility changes for Elder Gulch permitted facilities; to insert radionuclide ALs and AQLs into the consolidated permit, and make administrative corrections to the permit.

The draft permit and related documentation are available for public review, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at ADEQ, 1110 West Washington Street, Records Management Center, Phoenix, Arizona, 85007. In Phoenix, please call (602) 771-4380 or e-mail RecordsCenter@azdeq.gov 24 hours in advance to schedule an appointment to review the file. The permit and fact sheet may be viewed online at azdeq.gov/cgi-bin/vertical.pl by accessing the notice on the Events and Notices Calendar for the date of this public notice.

Persons may submit comments or request a public hearing on the proposed action, in writing, to Richard Mendolia, Project Manager, Mining Unit, 1110 West Washington St. Phoenix, AZ 85007, within thirty (30) days from the date of this notice. A public hearing request must include the reasons for such request.